

Building Energy Codes---White Paper

Executive Summary

This analysis seeks to quantify the manifold economic benefits of energy code adoption and implementation in the state of Mississippi. The report is organized into five sections: Statewide Energy Savings, Financial Benefits to Individual Homeowners and Businesses, Economic Benefits from Updated Energy Codes, Environmental Benefits from Update Energy Code, and Local and Regional Best Practices.

Sections I and II provide comprehensive residential and commercial construction energy savings analysis, both sector-wide and at the building level. The analysis estimates that if Mississippi adopted and implemented the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2007 statewide in 2012, by 2016, state energy use would decrease by approximately 609,593 MWh of electricity and 11,291,148 therms of natural gas over the five year period. Reduced demand for energy is estimated to decrease annual energy costs for Mississippi households and businesses by over \$61 million. These savings also present positive cost-benefit scenarios for home buyers and commercial building owners and tenants, whereby they recoup their initial code-induced efficiency investments quickly and thereafter receive the long-term benefits of reduced utility bills.

Section III of the report describes attendant economic benefits of code adoption, including emerging trends regarding energy-efficient building valuation. As well, analysis examines increased consumer purchasing power and its impact on local and state economies. This spending has beneficial—but difficult to quantify – effects, through the reallocation of spending into high-value chain products, which multiply increased consumer spending throughout the larger economy. As well, Section III suggests that if updated codes were adopted on a statewide basis, moderate job creation would be spurred as a result of newfound job opportunities for building inspectors and HERS rating providers.

Section IV presents environmental benefits associated with code adoption.

Reduced energy demands due to updated codes directly translate into reduced air pollution and carbon emissions from energy producers. Section V, Local and Regional Best Practices, draws on local stakeholder interviews and examples from its Compliance Planning Assistance (CPA) Program to compile an abbreviated list of best practices from jurisdictions within Mississippi and from states within the southeastern region.